

SARAWAK STATE ASSEMBLY MAY BE DISSOLVED IN TWO WEEKS

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KUCHING: The Sarawak legislative assembly could be dissolved within the next two weeks to pave the way for the 11th state election.

Veteran PBB leader Datuk Peter Minos said the dissolution was expected to take place by next week or the first week of April at the latest.

He said this was because Chief Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem had suggested April 18 and April 30 for nomination and polling, although it was still the prerogative of the Election Commission (EC) to decide.

“At the moment, the indication is that the election will be in April. But the EC will be guided by other factors such as security, weather and its own preparations, so the dates will not necessarily be April 18 and 30,” he told *The Star* yesterday.

“The Chief Minister is keeping the dissolution very close to his chest. He still has to solve the problems of the four disputing parties with regard to seats and candidates,” Minos said, referring to SUPP, SPDP and their breakaway parties UPP and Teras.

SUPP and SPDP, which are state Barisan component parties, have refused to give up any of their seats to UPP and Teras.

Adenan has said he might field direct Barisan candidates as a way to resolve the situation.

Political analyst Dr Jeniri Amir of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak said the election could take place in May instead of on April 30.

“My take is that the election will most likely be held on May 7 or 14 at the latest,” he said.

In 2011, the state assembly was dissolved on March 21, with nomination on April 6 and polling on April 16.